

CLAIMS

1. A powder paint composition comprising at least
  - (a) a thermosetting polymer having functional groups capable of reacting with  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units
  - (b) a compound comprising  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units and
  - (c) a deceleration agent, capable of reversibly blocking the functional groups of polymer (a),
 wherein the deceleration agent is present in an amount sufficient to block at least 9 % of the total amount of functional groups of polymer (a).
2. A powder paint composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the polymer (a) is a carboxylic acid functional polymer or an anhydride functional polymer.
3. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-2, characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):
 

$$\text{YR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3 \qquad \qquad \qquad ((\text{III}))$$

or

$$(\text{YR}^1\text{R}^2\text{R}^3\text{R}^4)^+\text{X}^- \qquad \qquad \qquad (\text{IV})$$

 wherein:
 

Y is N or P,

$\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  or  $\text{R}^4$  are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

$\text{X}^-$  is halide.
4. A powder paint composition according to Claim 3 characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III).
5. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 3-4 characterised in that Y is N.
6. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 3-5 characterised in that  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are unsubstituted carbon chains.
7. A powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-6 characterised in that the deceleration agent is octyldimethylamine, decyldimethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, tetradecyldimethylamine, hexadecyldimethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine.
8. A process for the preparation of a powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-7 comprising at least the steps of:

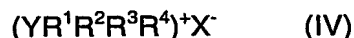
- 5 a) producing a polymer (a) having functional groups capable of reacting with  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units at the processing temperature  $T_p$ ;  
 b) adding a deceleration agent (c) to the polymer at temperature  $T_a$ , wherein  $T_a$  is equal to or lower than  $T_p$  but higher than the  $T_g$  or  $T_m$  of the polymer, in an amount sufficient to block at least 9% of the functional groups of the polymer (a) capable of reacting with  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide units.

9. A process according to Claim 8, wherein the deceleration agent is added before the polymer is cooled down to below its  $T_g$  or  $T_m$ .

10 10. The use of a tertiary compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):



or



wherein:

15 Y is N or P

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  or  $R^4$  are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

$X^-$  is halide

20 as a deceleration agent in a powder paint composition comprising a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide compound.

11. A process for curing a powder paint composition according to any one of Claims 1-7 or a powder paint composition obtained by the process according to any one of Claims 8-9 whereby the powder paint composition is first applied to a substrate and then cured.

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